

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

<b>Applicants:</b>	Kazunari Tokuda, et al.	<b>Examiner:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Serial No:</b>	Unassigned	<b>Art Unit:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Filed:</b>	Herewith	<b>Docket:</b>	17205
<b>For:</b>	ENDOSCOPE	<b>Dated:</b>	November 12, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-131221, published May 12, 2000, together with an English-Language Abstract;
2. Japanese Patent Application No. 3325056, dated July 5, 2002, together with an English-Language Abstract (corresponding to Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 6-154228, published June 3, 1994); and
3. German Patent Application No. DE 100 31 818 A1, dated January 11, 2001 (corresponding to U.S. Patent No. 6,527,708 B1, dated March 4, 2003, issued to Nakamura, et al.).

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 12, 2003.

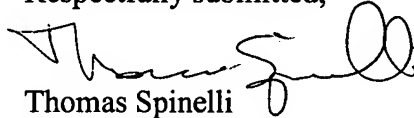
**Dated:** November 12, 2003

  
Thomas Spinelli

Applicants are submitting copies of the above-cited Japanese references and their English language abstracts. U.S. patents are no longer required per the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) in effect as of June 30, 2003. The relevance of the reference nos. 1 and 2 has been described in the specification.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



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Form PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (REV. 7-80) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  <div style="text-align: center;"><b>LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT</b></div> <div style="text-align: center;"><i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i></div>				<b>Atty. Docket No. (Optional)</b>  17205		<b>Application Number</b>  Unassigned	
				<b>Applicant(s)</b> Kazunari Tokuda, et al.			
				<b>Filing Date</b> Herewith		<b>Group Art Unit</b> Unassigned	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
<b>EXAMINER INITIAL*</b>		<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUBCLASS</b>	<b>FILING DATE (if appropriate)</b>
	AA	6,527,708 B1	3/4/03	Nakamura, et al.			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
	<b>REF</b>	<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUBCLASS</b>	<b>TRANSLATION</b>
							YES      NO
		2000-131221	5/12/00	Japan			
		3325056	7/5/02	Japan			
		6-154228	6/3/94	Japan (abstract only)			
		DE 100 31 818 A1	1/11/01	Germany			
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS</b> <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>							
<b>EXAMINER</b>				<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>			
* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							